

Another species which claims mention solely on account of occasional early and late occurrences is the Robin (*Merula migratoria*). As a rule these birds are not seen here in any numbers until the beginning of April, and they are away before the beginning of October, but a few stragglers stretch those limits considerably, individuals having been observed in December and February.

Of the order Picariæ, only four species, all of the family Picidæ, can be properly called winter birds in this locality. These are the Downy Woodpecker (*Picus pubescens*), the Hairy Woodpecker (*Picus villosus*), the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoïdes arcticus*), and the Banded-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoïdes tridactylus americanus*). Of these, the Downy and Hairy are common, both summer and winter, but are much less so during the latter season. The Black-backed Three-toed is not very uncommon in the summer, but is rarely met with during the cold weather. The Banded Three-toed has only been taken two or three times, and never in the summer. The only specimen I have known taken here is a female, which was shot on the 5th of last November, and is at present in the collection of Mr. White.

While on accidental stragglers, I should have recorded the occurrence of a Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) which came under the notice of Mr. J. F. Whiteaves, Palæontologist and Zoölogist to the Geological survey of Canada. During the first week in February, 1883, a Swift came down the chimney and into a room in which that gentleman was sitting. The bird appeared somewhat dazed as it flew about the room, knocking over several articles in its career. It was caught and examined by Mr. Whiteaves, and remained alive for several days. Does this incident suggest hibernation to any of my readers?

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## NOTES ON *ARDEA WARDI* RIDGW.\*

BY CHAS. W. WARD.

THESE birds were first noticed in 1883, on Kissimmee Lake, Florida, where three specimens were procured. With one excep-

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\* Cf. Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. VII. Jan. 1882, p. 5.

tion these specimens were identical in size and coloration with those procured in 1881 at Estero Bay. The measurements of the two before me, taken when the birds were fresh, are as follows: No. 1. Culmen, 7.75; depth of bill, 1.40; tarsus, 10.00; middle toe, 5.75; naked tibia, 5.75. Eyes yellow; bill olive above and yellow below. Bare portion of tibia light yellow, shading into olivaceous at the knee-joint. Tarsus olivaceous in front, bright yellow behind; soles of feet and toes light yellow. No. 2. Culmen, 7.25; depth of bill, 1.20; tarsus, 8.50; middle toe, 5.25; naked tibia, 5.50. Eyes yellow. Bill uniformly lightish yellow. Bare tibia, tarsus, and feet colored as in No. 1. This specimen differs in coloration from the type specimen in the head and neck. The neck is a shade darker. The head is pure white. black crown patch smaller, white on forehead larger, extending back behind the occipital plumes, which are white, narrowing at the back of crown, where the elongated feathers are streaked and splashed with white. I first called this specimen *Ardea würdemanni*, but Mr. Ridgway, upon comparing it with the type of *A. würdemanni*, pronounces it typical *A. wardi*, with an albinotic tendency. We found *A. wardi* nesting singly, and in groups of half-a-dozen to forty pairs. Several specimens were taken at different points on the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Charlotte Harbor, all being alike in color.

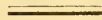
A curious circumstance was the conspicuous absence of *A. occidentalis* among the birds. In the entire region explored not a single specimen was observed. Several large heronries were examined on Lake Okeechobee (ranging in size from 10 to 40 nests), and not a single white bird, either old or young, could be found. In the Okeechobee heronries no other Herons nested, the ground being exclusively occupied by Snake Birds and *A. wardi*.

From March 1 to May 15, these birds were breeding. Young in every stage of development were found (as well as freshly laid eggs) during my entire sojourn. My observations have led to no definite or satisfactory conclusions regarding the status of *A. occidentalis*, *A. würdemanni*, and *A. wardi*. Through the regions explored *A. wardi* is abundant and *A. würdemanni* and *A. occidentalis* are exceedingly rare, if found at all.

It would appear from all the evidence at my command that *A. wardi* has no white phase. The only evidence tending to substantiate the theory of dichromatism is the finding of a white

and gray bird in the same nest at Estero Bay in 1881, and the bird procured last March, on Kissimmee Lake, with the white occipital plume. This would seem to be insufficient.

Mr. Cannon, a bird collector for many years on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, coincides in the opinion that the white and gray birds are different species, stating that he has visited heronries composed entirely of *A. occidentalis*—not a single gray bird among them; and that he has yet to find a single instance where a white and gray bird have mated. Better evidence is needed to settle this question than is now at command.



#### NOTES ON *PHALACROCORAX VIOLACEUS*. AND ON *P. VIOLACEUS RESPLENDENS*.

BY N. S. GOSS.

THE Violet-green Cormorants are quite common along the Northwest Coast, but not easily captured, as they rarely alight upon the main land, even where the coast is high and precipitous, preferring the rocks and reefs off the shore which are more or less submerged at high tide. These form their natural fishing grounds and resting places and to which they return at night. They nest upon the sides of the higher rocks and inaccessible cliffs that in places form the frontage of the islands.

At Neah Bay and vicinity, Washington Territory, I had a very good opportunity to observe the birds from the 10th of January to the 6th of June, 1882. The following are the measurements, etc., as taken at the time of killing, of seven of the birds (four of which are in my collection):—

Locality.	Date.	Sex.	Length.	Stretch.	Wing.	Tail.	Tars.	Bill.	Weight.
Neah Bay,	Jan. 31.	♀	25.50	39.25	9.40	5.80	1.70	1.70	2lb. 14oz.
Neah Bay,	Feb. 13.	♀	25.75	39.10	9.30	6.00	1.70	1.80	3lb.
Neah Bay,	Feb. 16. juv.	♂	27.50	41.00	9.65	6.20	1.75	1.85	3lb. 5oz.
C. Flattery.	Feb. 19.	♂	28.50	42.50	10.00	6.50	1.80	1.95	3lb. 13oz.
Neah Bay,	May 13.	♂	29.00	43.50	10.50	6.70	1.80	1.95	3lb. 15oz.
Neah Bay,	May 13.	♀	25.75	39.35	9.40	6.00	1.70	1.85	2lb. 14oz.
Neah Bay,	June 4, juv.	♀	25.50	39.20	9.40	5.80	1.70	1.80	2lb. 14oz.